



US Army Corps
of Engineers

Sacramento District
1325 J Street
Sacramento, CA 95814-2922

Public Notice

Public Notice Number: 199500652

Date: August 7, 2003

Comments Due: August 21, 2003

In reply, please refer to the Public Notice Number

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

SUBJECT: Proposal by the Sacramento District, US Army Corps of Engineers, to reissue Department of the Army Regional General Permit #58 (GP-58) for activities involving the discharge of dredged or fill material in waters of the United States, including Cache Creek, under the authority of Section 404 of the Clean Water Act.

APPLICANT: General Public

LOCATION: Along a 14.5-mile reach, encompassing approximately 4,995 acres, extending from the Capay Dam downstream to a leveed section of Cache Creek near Yolo, in Yolo County, California, as shown in the attached drawing.

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION: The Cache Creek Resources Management Plan and the Cache Creek Improvement Program for Lower Cache Creek (CCRMP/CCIP) are Yolo County river management plans that focus on channel stabilization and habitat restoration. The CCRMP/CCIP involve work requiring Department of the Army permits including gravel bar skimming; vegetation removal; minor bank protection work; maintenance or modification of the defined low flow channel; removal of debris upstream of bridges; and off-channel wetland/riparian habitat restoration.

Selective gravel bar skimming would be performed to prevent reduction in overall channel capacity and to aid in the control of bank erosion patterns. Vegetation removal would be used to manage flow velocities and hydraulic capacity, to control bar formation and minimize bank erosion and remove invasive species such as giant reed and tamarisk. Bank stabilization activities would include minor grading, revegetation, and bio-technical protection techniques and conventional "hardscape" (rip-rap) bank protection. The permit would also authorize minimal relocation and reshaping of the defined low-flow channel to improve the stability of the channel and reduce the magnitude of stream bank erosion. Normal maintenance activities would include removal of debris from bridge areas, and from channel areas upstream of bridges. Restoration activities would include the addition of substrate, replanting of native vegetation and minimal impact activities to provide sufficient hydrology to sustain wetland and riparian habitat. Work authorized by GP-58 would be subject to preconstruction notification and prior acknowledgment by the Corps that the proposed project activity may proceed under this permit. Authorization and verification of individual projects under GP-58 would rely on the projects's adherence to the CCRMP/CCIP and a demonstration the project would have no more than minimal individual and cumulative impacts.

AREA DESCRIPTION: The regional topography consists of low rolling hills and broad alluvial plains formed at the base of the eastern flank of the California Coast Range. Cache Creek traverses Yolo, Lake, and Colusa counties, and its drainage basin extends from the upper basin highlands, north and northeast of Clear Lake, to the Yolo Bypass, east of the City of Woodland.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

Yolo County's the July 23 2002, Final Supplemental Program Environmental Impact Report for the Cache Creek Resource Management Plan and Project-level Environmental Impact Report for the Cache Creek Improvement Program for Lower Cache Creek (SCH# 96013004) is available from the County at the address below.

The only federally-listed species which may be affected by work in the permit area is the valley elderberry longhorn beetle (VELB) (Desmocerus californicus dimorphus). The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service issued a conditioned Programmatic Biological Opinion (1-1-96-F-66) dated September 19, 1996, for CCRMP work.

The California Regional Water Quality Control Board issued Certification under Section 401 of the Clean Water Act for the CCRMP on August 28, 2002.

Currently unknown cultural resources may be within the permit area.

Any activity conducted under GP-58 must be in compliance with the National Historic Preservation Act. A Special Condition of the permit will require the applicant to provide all the information necessary for the Corps to determine the potential for cultural resources within the permit area and consult with the State Historic Preservation Officer on a case by case basis as appropriate.

The District Engineer has made these determinations based on information provided by the applicant and on the Corps' preliminary investigation.

Interested parties are invited to submit written comments on or before **August 28, 2003**.

Personal information in comment letters is subject to release to the public through the Freedom of Information Act. Any person may request, in writing, within the comment period specified in this notice that a public hearing be held to consider this application. Requests for public hearings shall state, with particularity, the reasons for holding a public hearing.

The decision whether to issue a permit will be based on an evaluation of the probable impact including cumulative impacts of the proposed activity on the public interest. That decision will reflect the national concern for both protection and utilization of important resources. The benefit which reasonably may be expected to accrue from the proposal must be balanced against its reasonably foreseeable detriments. All factors which may be relevant to the proposal will be considered including the cumulative effects thereof; among those are conservation, economics, aesthetics, general environmental concerns, wetlands, cultural values, fish and wildlife values, flood hazards, flood plain values, land use, navigation, shoreline erosion and accretion, recreation, water supply and conservation, water quality, energy needs, safety, food and fiber production, mineral needs, consideration of property ownership, and in general, the needs and welfare of the people.

The Corps of Engineers is soliciting comments from the public; Federal, state, and local agencies and officials; Indian Tribes; and other interested parties in order to consider and evaluate the impacts of this proposed activity. Any comments received will be considered by the Corps of Engineers to determine whether to issue, modify, condition or deny a permit for this proposal. To make this decision, comments are used to assess impacts on endangered species, historic properties, water quality, general environmental effects, and the other public interest factors listed above. Comments are used in the preparation of an Environmental Assessment and/or an Environmental Impact Statement pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act. Comments are also used to determine the need for a public hearing and to determine the overall public interest of the proposed activity.

If additional information is required, please contact Linda Fiack, Yolo County Planning & Public Works Department, 292 West Beamer Street, Woodland, California 95695, telephone 530-666-8019, or William Guthrie, at the letterhead address, telephone 916-557-5269.

Mark W. Connelly
Lieutenant Colonel,
Corps of Engineers
Acting District Engineer

Enclosure: 1 Drawing